

FAMILY HISTORY

BRIEF HISTORY OF DANIEL (DAN) CROOK

Dan Crook was born June 12, 1801, at Turton, Lancashire, England. The son of Thomas and Nancy (Nanny) Walsh Crook. He states in his journal that Rushton Farm was where he spent his early life. Rushton Farm was located about half way between Bolton and Blackburn, to the left of the road just before you go over the ridge, going to Blackburn.

He married Margaret Kay January 7, 1824. She was the daughter of Ann Kay. Margaret was born September 3, 1804.

To this union was born; Betsey.. 11 June 1825 .. Alice... 25 May 1829 .. John... 11 October 1831... Ann... 19 May July 1834 (died under 1 year).

Dan Crook seemed to be of a religious turn of mind as were his parents, also his Grandfather, Peter Crook. The son later seemed to have become dissatisfied with the English Church and left it and became a presbyterian. Thomas was also a Presbyterian. Dan writes; "I was strongly attached to the Presbyterian Church and did rejoice, at times, in the principles which the ministers did preach, according to the little which they had. Although, at times, I went to other places of worship, but could not join myself to them. For sometime I began to be careless and indifferent about attending a place of worship. I became rather careless, ill-tempered and worldly, I was afflicted at different times, which made me rather quick tempered.

Time passed away, years rolled by, hours, days and months fled away and was forgotten, as if it were lost in the distance. About the year of our Lord 1840, when to my joy and satisfaction I heard of a new religion called the Latter-Day-Saints. I laughed and scoffed at an angle talking to man. Then I concluded to go and hear them (the Missionary Robert Holden, a cousin, told me of the Missionaries). We decided to go and hear them, just out of curiosity. One Sunday about the latter end of July 1840, we went to Bolton. The Missionaries were meeting in a room back of King Street, in an upper room, up two flights of stairs. We crept up one pair of stairs and came to a landing and listened a little, we heard something new, we ventured up the other pair of stairs and bot to the end (of a form (bench)) that was nearest to us. We sat down like somebody that had stolen something. We harkened like a "pig in thunder" (as the old saying is) and we heard strange things from the scriptures which we never understood before, but we could remember something strange. We started talking about the things we had heard. After the meeting we had some conversation with the people. They told us about an angle appearing to a man in America and about the Book of Mormon etc.. We thought it was something strange. We started talking about the things we had heard. We met the man that had been preaching. His name was Joseph Barrow. He gave us a paper of about four leaves, it was called "The Timely Warning". He told us to read it. We took it and came on our way and felt happy at the things we had heard. About two miles out of town we could not feel satisfied till we had read the paper. We sat down under the hedge by the wayside and read it.

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We thought the things in it were in accordance to the scriptures, that we could not deny. We then came home and felt very happy. I then began to believe in the things we had heard and was convinced that they were true."

Dan Crook was baptized October 9, 1840. Was ordained a Priest and labored as a missionary. Uncle Peter May said, he accompanied him on a number of occasions to some of the surrounding villages. On December 5th (year not certain) he relates the following; "rother Beswick and I attended Walkerfold, Horwich, as we went it was dark and wet. We had a few people there, we preached unto them and had pretty good liberty. When we came away it was dark, so dark we could not see our way. We stopped and prayed to our Father in Heaven to bless us and give us light to find our path. He did so, the canopy of Heaven began to open in white streaks so that we had light to find our path. We stood in the middle of a great field and returned thanks for the light and then came on our way home."

Dan's wife, Margaret, died March 20, 1846. They had lived at eagly and Dan worked the Eagly Mills. Their children were born here. He embraced the Mormon Gospel and was soon after ordained Priest and then an Elder and worked as a local Missionary. Peter May relates that he went with Dan to some of the villages around Bolton and on one occasion at the beginning of the meeting, he cried "Come near, O ye inhabitants of this village and hear the word of the Lord".

From his journal we quote...."January 1, 1851 we left old England to come to America on the ship, "Hellen". There were about 475 passengers, a crew of 25 men, making 500 in all. We landed in St. Louis Missouri, March 25th, and remained there until April 13th. Then we started for Kanesville or Council Bluffs, Iowa. Here I worked six weeks fitting wagons. (He was a Wheelwright by trade). They said all should go to Utah as wanted to. But when the time came around for going, we were told ther was no room. All the talk through the winter and spring was to fit up and prepare to go to Utah the coming summer. Wo everybody that could work turned in and were organized into companies, some working fitting up wagons, some repairing chains, yokes, etc. Others in the timbers. About the first of May the first companies started for Utah. I was very disheartened when I was told there was no show for me to get away".

In July 1852 Dan Crook was taken ill with chils and fever. On the seconed of August he died, and the next day was buried in the Cemetery one half mile north of Kanesville (Council Bluffs, Iowa). His son John and Son-in-Law, Edmund Kay dug the grave. Mr. Greer came and took the body, in his wagon, to the cemetery. John and Edmund filled the grave. (John states in his journal that his father died of a broken heart).

Alice Crook married Frank Stoddard, who joined the Mormon Battalion and went to California. After the Battlion was discharged, Frank Stoddard went to Utah. He wanted Alice to join him there but she decided not to, She stayed stayed in Council Bluffs and later married Thomas pilling. Frank Staddard married a Utah Woman and settled in Unitah, Weber County, Utah. Betsy Crook Married Edmund Kay and Stayed in Council Bluffs, where She Died August 24, 1855..

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HIS SON John remained in Council Bluffs and worked for Mr. Voorhees, a merchant, for \$10.00 and board, a month. He also hired out to J. B Stutsman, working his team on shares. He later went into the ice business with his brother-in-law. While peddling ice he met Mary Giles (who he later married) She was working for R. R. Pegram, as a house hold servant. Thus he became acquainted with the Giles family and crossed the plains with them in the E. B. Trip Company. They left Council Bluffs about the first of June 1856.

Daniel Crook

HEBER CITY—Daniel Crook, 30, son of Frederick and Minnie Lindsey Crook, died Monday morning at his home of heart trouble, after a lingering illness. Mr. Crook was born in Heber Oct. 4, 1908. He was active in Church work, and particularly in Boy Scout activities. He has served as scoutmaster until five years ago.

Surviving are his parents; two sisters, Mrs. George Montgomery and Mrs. Ada Thomas, both of Heber; seven brothers, Lindsey, Wm. J., Frank, William, Robert, and Howard Crook, all of Heber; Royal D. Crook of Fallon, Nev., and James E. Crook of Salt Lake City; and a grand-mother, Mrs. Agnes Lindsey of Heber.

Services will be conducted Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. in the Heber Third Ward chapel by Bishop Ralph Giles. Burial will be in the Heber City Cemetery.